

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Emergency Condition Notification Form

Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Time: 12:00 PM (MDT)

Facility Affected: Yellowtail Dam **River(s) Affected:** Bighorn River

Organizations Receiving this Notification: None

Current conditions at Yellowtail Dam do not require formal notifications. The status update below is for informational purposes only.

Condition Description

Current Conditions – Yellowtail Dam and Bighorn River:

- Reservoir Elevation: 3651.12 feet, an increase of about 0.34 feet in the last 24 hours.
- Elevation of the top of Exclusive Flood Control Pool: 3657.0 feet
- Release to the Bighorn River: 10,000 cubic-feet per second (cfs)
- 24-hour average inflow: 13,100 cfs
- Feet to Fill (Top of Joint-Use): 0.00 feet (the reservoir filled to this level on June 26)
- Exclusive Flood Control Storage Utilized: 62.2 percent of 258,331 acre-feet available

In cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), we are planning to make the following change this afternoon:

Wednesday, July 13 at 4:00 PM: Releases from Yellowtail will be increased from 10,000 cfs to 11,000 cfs.

There are no dam safety related conditions or concerns with Yellowtail or Yellowtail Afterbay Dams. Inflows and releases from Yellowtail Dam have dropped below levels requiring an elevated response level and increased notifications to downstream authorities and affected agencies. Should these conditions change, Reclamation will resume these notifications.

1. Potential River Levels and Times of Arrival

The following provides the approximate travel times and river stage rises from Yellowtail Dam to reach key locations along the Bighorn River:

<u>Bighorn River Location</u>	<u>Approximate Travel Time</u>	<u>Approximate River Stage Increase per 1,000 cfs change</u>
Two Leggins Bridge	7-9 hours	0.35 - 0.45 feet
Hardin	10-12 hours	0.30 - 0.40 feet
Confluence with the Yellowstone River	24 hours	0.20 - 0.30 feet

2. Actions Taken by Reclamation

Reclamation continues to work closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding our operations at Yellowtail to safely manage the remaining flood control storage in Yellowtail Reservoir. We are continuing to post updates to the operational conditions at Yellowtail Dam on the Bureau of Reclamation, Montana Area Office website at <http://www.usbr.gov/gp/mtao>

3. Actions Expected of Downstream Agencies

Be advised that the reservoir level in Bighorn Lake will continue rising in the next one-two weeks to approximately 3655.0 feet. Additionally, please be advised that additional increases in our releases may be necessary in the coming days as the Exclusive Flood Control pool fills.

4. For Additional Information

Steve Davies
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Montana Area Office
Office: 406-247-7322
Cell: 406-855-1446
sdavies@usbr.gov

6. Media Inquiries:

Paula Holwegner
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Montana Area Office
Office: 406-247-7300
Cell: 406-670-5158
pholwegner@usbr.gov